

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application discloses a document repository system in which the originator of the document is able to ensure the integrity and security of its document filed with a third party repository without having to trust the administrator of that repository. In this repository system, the document originator and the repository administrator have vault environments which are secure extensions of their respective work spaces. The vault of the document originator encrypts a document that it receives from the originator, prior to forwarding it on to the vault of the repository to maintain the document secure from the repository administrator. When a request is made to view the document, it is made from the vault which is a secure extension of the requesting party's work space to the repository's vault. The repository's vault retrieves a copy of the encrypted document which is forwards, along with the requester's identity, to the originator's vault. The originator's vault verifies that the requester is authorized to view the document from the access control list using an access control list identifying access ownership privileges for the document stored in the vault itself. The originator's vault decrypts the document and forwards the decrypted document directly to the requester's vault. Therefore the repository administrator never handles the decrypted documents or the encrypting and decrypting of the documents.

The repository system also maintains the information on authorized user access secure from any actions of the third party administrator of the repository. To this end, the system includes a communications environment that houses a first agent program in the data repository system which is a

secure extension of the work space of the depositor's computer and a second agent program which is a secure extension of the work space of a first user computer with access privileges to the electronic data file. A manifest is accessible to and maintained by the first agent program. The first user computer has a record of its access privileges to the electronic data file which is accessible to and maintained by the second agent program. When changes are made to the manifest affecting the first user computer's access privileges to the electronic data file, these changes are communicated from the first agent program to the second agent program so that the first user computer's record of its access privileges can be updated. The first agent program is also able to verify the first user computer's access privileges to the electronic data file before the electronic data file is released to the second agent program.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

A. Original claims 1 to 6, 12, 13, 22 and 23, in the application were all rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the Carroll, U.S. patent, #6,105,131.

The applicant's attorney did not find where the Carroll patent discloses preventing access by the repository administrator to either the vault owners vault or a directory of authorized users of data stored in the repository. In fact from lines 60 to 65 of column 5 of Carroll, it would appear that a repository administrator would have access to the vault space and from the Abstract of Carroll, the administration would have access to the vault directory.

B. Original claims 7, 8, 14 to 18, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Chiu, U.S. Patent #6,181,336.

Applicant's attorney did not find where the Chiu patent teaches preventing access by the system administrator to a vault owners vault. In fact, it appears from lines 17 to 24 of column 24, that the system administrator can control who has access to a users vault. Therefore in Chiu, the administrator has access through the control list to the users vault.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Original claims 9 to 11, 19 and 21 where rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiu in view of Carroll.

Since neither the Chiu or Carroll patents excludes access to the vaults of the data signals or users or prevents access to the access list, the combination of these two patents does not.

For the above reasons all claims in the application are allowable over the cited references. Independent claims 1, 7, 12 and 17 all call for maintaining portions of a data repository where data is secure from the repository administrator.

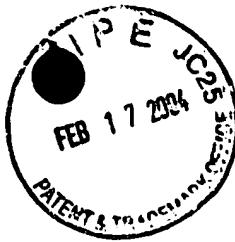
Changes to the Specification

A number of corrections have been made to the specification. For instance, the application # of the copending application has been added to page 1. The referral to "Figure 4" on page 12, has been changed to -- Figures 4A and 4B -- which are contained in the drawing. Also, grammar of the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 29, and other paragraphs, has been corrected.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over the prior art and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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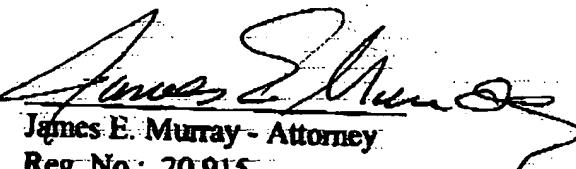
CA9-98-030

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FEB 24 2004

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